

THE PRESENT STATUS AND SYNONYMY OF SOME  
ORSILLINE SPECIES (HEMIPTERA,  
LYGAEIDAE).

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In examining collections of the genus *Nysius* and its allies from various parts of the world, in my revisional studies of the Hawaiian and Australian Orsilline faunas, types have been encountered from other regions. Inasmuch as some of these alter the present status of some of our common North American species, it seems best to record the data at this time in order to make it available for studies now in progress elsewhere on the *Nysius* of the United States.

Thanks are due the authorities of the Provincial Museum in Quebec; Dr. O. Lundblad of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum, Stockholm; Mr. W. E. China of the British Museum (Natural History); and Dr. W. A. Hilton of Pomona College, Claremont, California, for the opportunity to study the types of Provancher, Stål, Distant, and Baker respectively.

I am further obliged to Mr. China for supplying me with a specimen of *Mesostates maculatus* Reuter (1882) by which I have been able to establish the correct position of the genus *Mesostates*, not near *Orsillus* as stated by Reuter, but in the tribe Ischnorrhynchini of the neighboring subfamily Cyminae. Mr. China also sent the type species of the genus *Nysiodes*, e.g., *typus*, Distant (1918) (see also China, 1937), which clearly belongs to the genus *Camp-tocoris* Puton (1886) as redefined by Kiritshenko (1931).

1. *Ortholomus scolopax* (Say) (1832).

(= *Nysius saint-cyri* Provancher, 1872).

(= *Ortholomus uhleri* Baker, 1906).

Horváth (1908) concluded that Provancher's *saint-cyri* was a synonym of the common species of *Nysius* (*thymi* Wolff?) which he encountered in the vicinity of Buffalo, New York. In this he was followed by Van Duzee (1917) who did not see the type of this species when he studied Provancher's Hemiptera (1912). The series of type specimens of *saint-cyri* were in a box separate from the rest of the Lygaeidae when I saw the collection in 1937 so this may account for their being overlooked previously. The species is identical with *Ortholomus scolopax* (Say).

In Baker's excellent collection of Orsillini at Pomona College is the unique type of *Ortholomus uhleri* Baker, a male from Polk Co., Wisconsin, collected in July. It differs from typical members of the variable *scolopax* only in its evenly rounded pronotal disk

without depressed callosities. Judging from the extreme variation within the limits of the allied species, *jamaicensis* Dallas, as well as from the variety of specimens of *scolopax* obtainable in a single locality, *uhleri* should be synonymized.

2. *Ortholomus jamaicensis* Dallas (1852).

(= *Nysius spurcus* Stål, 1850).

A female specimen from the type series labelled "Taiti, Kinb." has pale hemelytra with reddish corial tips. The membrane is variegated with brown on the middle of the apical half. The body is densely clothed with pale, appressed pubescence. The bucculae are elevated only anteriorly. The rostrum reaches to the middle of the posterior coxae or to the posterior margin of the metasternum, the first segment not reaching base of head.

Size: Length 5.13 mm., width 1.6 mm.

This specimen is certainly *jamaicensis* although I am unable to find any specimens in my series with such a short rostrum. A second female specimen, "Mexico, Sallé" is identical with dark specimens of *jamaicensis*, having the same dark coloration, ill-defined longitudinal fasciae on the pronotum and alternated connexivum.

Locality records for the Eugénies Resa expedition have proved to be notoriously inaccurate and several competent collectors, e.g., Adamson, Mumford, Miss Cheesman, and Zimmerman, have failed to turn up any Orsillini in the Society Islands. Hence it seems safe to assume that the Tahiti record was entirely erroneous in this case. Stål, himself, recorded it from various localities in tropical America.

3. *Belonochilus numenius* (Say) (1832).

(= *Belonochilus mexicanus* Distant, 1893.)

*Mexicanus* was described from Orizaba, Mexico, and was stated to differ from *numenius* by the "rostrum only extending over three-fourths the length of the abdomen." In the long series before me including cotypes of *mexicanus* the rostrum varies in length, reaching only to the middle of the abdomen in San Diego (California) specimens and almost or quite reaching the tip of the abdomen in Sacramento specimens. Some specimens from the eastern United States have a long rostrum as do specimens from Arizona, while in a series from Buffalo, New York, the rostrum scarcely exceeds the middle of the abdomen.

Other variation includes the femoral spines which are greatly reduced in "*mexicanus*" and entirely wanting in the San Diego series whereas they are distinct and long in eastern United States specimens. The third antennal segment may be subequal to the

fourth (Sacramento) or one-fifth shorter (Arizona) than the fourth segment.

4. *Nysius californicus* Stål (1859).

This large species is of southern origin, occurring throughout Central and South America. A closely allied species, "*Ortholomus*" *naso* Van Duzee (1933), is found in the Galapagos. The same remarks regarding authenticity of localities apply to Stål's *sordidus* (1859) from "Insula Taiti" as to *spurcus* (see above under *jamaicensis*). Type specimens of *sordidus* were found to agree with the shorter darker form of *californicus* found in Mexico and further south. Whether *sordidus*, the "var." *alabamensis* Baker (1906), and the smaller and darker West Indian and Central American *inaequalis* Uhler (1894) should be retained as subspecies and if so, how they are to be distinguished from each other, must remain for future study.

Mr. W. E. China very kindly compared specimens of *californicus* (South American) with the type of *basalis* Dallas (1852) and reports (*in litt.*) that they are "much larger and differently colored and marked from *basalis*." In *basalis* the costal margins are straight.

C. F. Baker (*in litt.* to E. P. Van Duzee soon after the publication of his "Notes," 1906) stated that he had erroneously interchanged the names "*providus*" and "*inaequalis*" in that paper. He corrected this mistake in his collection for he has a series labeled "*Nysius californicus* var. *inaequalis* Uhl." from Managua, Nicaragua in his collection at Pomona.

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**A European Buprestid in the United States.**—Among a number of specimens of *Agrilus* sent to Mr. C. A. Frost for identification, one was included which was returned unnamed. He suggested that it might be a European form. Subsequently the specimen in question was sent to Mr. W. S. Fisher of the U. S. National Museum, who returned it shortly, thereafter identified as *Agrilus derasofasciatus* Lac. This species is widely distributed through Central and Southern Europe. Junk's catalogue gives its range from Spain and France to Central European Russia, Caucasus and Armenia. It is also found on Balearic Islands, and Crete, and in Morocco and Algeria.

The original description is to be found in: *Lacordaire et Boisduval, Faune Ent. des env. de Paris*, 1835, p. 613.

I collected this single specimen on July 3, 1939, in Van Cortlandt Park, N. Y. C., from wild roses, along with a great number of the common *A. communis rubicola* Perrin.—BORYS MALKIN, New York City.